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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Retirement board claims innocence, local communities disagree

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Hampden County Regional Retirement Board did itself little favors during a March 3 conference call, as it fielded questions from town officials in various communities it represents.

An unsettling audit released last month by the MA Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission revealed that the Hampden County retirement board exceeded its budget and suspiciously spent approximately \$800,000 on inappropriate raises, false invoices, travel fees, fraudulent social security and other misappropriations between 2014 and 2017.

During last Wednesday's meeting, the board attempted to form a committee solely comprised of its own members to investigate its own wrongdoing.

After community members protested, the board unanimously

voted to instead establish an audit committee consisting of two board members and a member of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board Advisory Council.

"Isn't the audit committee the fox watching the hen house?" asked Hampden Board of Selectmen Chair Donald Davenport, audibly concerned by the chosen course of action.

During a call that lasted nearly 90 minutes, the board claimed that no malicious or fraudulent actions were taken and pledged to determine what contributed to the pattern of financial mismanagement that spanned nearly five years.

Retirement board Chairman/Treasurer Richard Theroux and Executive Director Julianne Bartley acknowledged that the board unknowingly made and approved expenditures that, at best, violated state statutes and, at worst, were blatantly fraudulent.

Officials on the call appeared

unsatisfied with the board's lengthy, but hollow explanations.

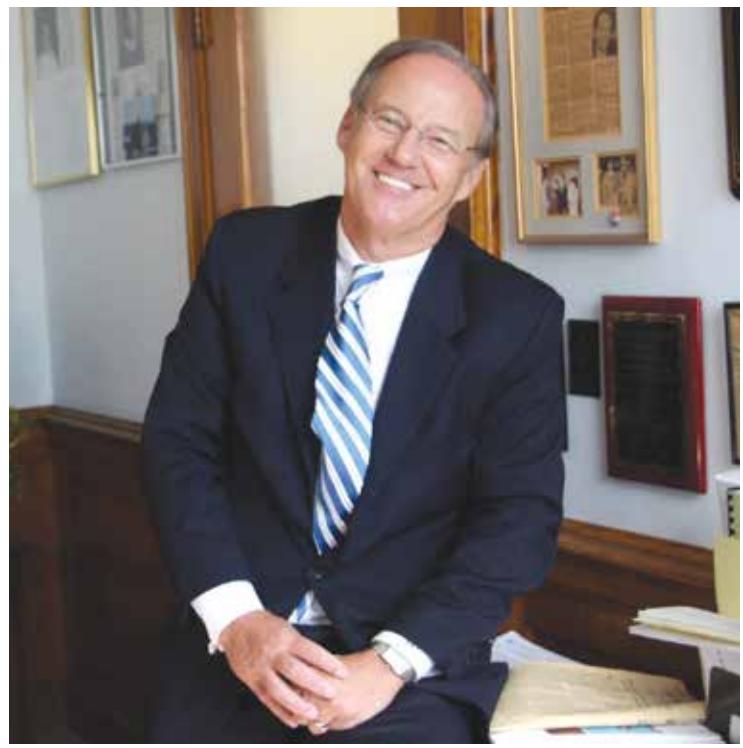
False Invoices

The first item discussed on March 3 involved approximately \$234,000 that was spent on 119 invoices for services never rendered, reviewed or documented. In response, Theroux said, "This is an issue with our website" and that the scenario represents, "the reasons that we do have an audit."

Board member Laurel Placzek, Agawam's Treasurer/Tax Collector, expressed her desire to discover the source of the suspicious invoices.

"One of the things we need to look to see is if in any of the invoices [PERAC] is referring to, if we did have a contract. If there was a conflict, then, obviously, an error was made in making these payments, and that error we are attempting to correct as soon as possible," said Placzek.

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Richard Theroux, retired Agawam Town Clerk, is the chairman of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board. The board is under scrutiny following an audit into its finances. FILE PHOTO

National Honor Society holds food drive

By Shelby Macri
smaci@turley.com

AGAWAM – The high school's National Honor Society hosted a food drive to help gather donations for the Gray House in Springfield. The students held the drive all last week.

Students attending school

in-person went to each classroom during study hall periods to collect during the day. They continued this way throughout the week to collect as many donations as possible. The club also held an afterschool donation center in the school cafeteria on two of the days last week to allow community members to donate products as

well. The community was able to donate at a convenient curbside pickup area.

The NHS has assisted other charities and organizations in the area, while they've held other food drives in the past they've held many other types of events as well. This food drive happens to be the first on the club has fa-

cilitated from start to finish. The club's co-advisors, Mary Bonavita and Andrea Persson, reached out to members of the guidance department to ask for suggestions of charities in the area that the NHS could partner with. The Gray House was suggested and after checking out their website they

FOOD DRIVE | page 12



From left; Ryan Butler, Ella Kinchak, Joseph Weyant, Billy Balzano, Danny Harpin, and Sofia Blanchette, student members of the National Honor Society helping with a food drive last week. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Rotary Club creates 'comfort kits' for students

By Shelby Macri
smaci@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Rotary Club worked with the Agawam Schools Social-Emotional Learning Director Marlene DeJesus to create Comfort Kits for students who are returning to in-person and hybrid learning.

The kits' purpose is to provide students with self-regulating tools to help them with their focus and attention. DeJesus said she worked with the Agawam Rotary President John Barber directly to develop a list of items that she felt would be most helpful to students. While Barber and the Rotary Team members assembled 125 kits by hand, DeJesus purchased an additional 50 kits through a different grant and as-

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Test scores waived in scholarship application

AGAWAM – Due to pandemic and the closing of national testing sites, many students have been unable to take college entrance exams. As a result, SAT and ACT scores are NOT required to apply for a Walter S. Barr Scholarship. Those students in college, as well as graduating seniors, are all encouraged to apply.

Completed Scholarship and Fellowship applications must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Ste. 2K, Westfield, MA

01085, no later than March 15. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, on-line at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

Last year, The Horace Smith Fund awarded \$297,000 in the form of 21 Scholarships and 3 Fellowships to deserving students. All applicants must be residents of Hampden County and full-time students. Scholarships awards of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annual-

ly and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$5,000 annually and renewable for two additional years. All recipients must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 each semester.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including merit, financial need, recommendations, and community involvement. Of greatest importance is the applicant's personal written account of why they feel deserving of the award.

BOARD ■ from page 1**Bank Service Charges**

The board discussed a series of bank service charges from 2014-2017 that amounted to \$87,229. Bob Markel, Hampden Town Administrator, questioned why the board would elect to do service with a bank that charges fees.

"Why would the board switch to a bank that applies service charges when you have so much money on deposit? I don't understand that, and the person who sent that in does not understand it," said Markel, reading aloud a question submitted by an official in a neighboring Hampden County community.

Several board members explained that the financial institution that the board has long done business with merged with Bank of America, resulting in the switch to a bank that charges services fees.

Placzek said that the board is now banking with PeoplesBank and no longer pays service fees.

Multiple attorneys in system

In violation of state statutes, the board made two attorneys members of its system, paying them a total of \$179,266 in legal fees and \$448,210 in premiums over the course of the audit. Most communities use employee money to pay 50% of premiums, but municipal employees' funds were used to cover 90% of the board's attorney fees during the audit.

Markel inquired if either attorney mentioned that is illegal for such action to be taken, to which Theroux explained that the board was simply attempting to save money and avoid conflicts of interest by hiring two individuals on a part-time basis.

Bartley added that, for 30 years, it had been part of the board's standard operating procedure to have its attorneys enter the system. She was surprised to learn that such action was illegal.

"I, in particular, was not aware of the provisions of Chapter 34.B when it was enacted in 1998. I, at that time, was not the director of the system," said Bartley. "This audit has, obviously, brought to our attention that we were in violation of that provision of that law. As recommended by the board, we have stopped treating the attorneys as employees."

Currently, neither attorney is employed by the board. Bartley said that the board plans to create a new request for proposal for legal services.

"[The attorneys] were not aware of this provision of the law, nor was I," said Bartley.

Travel expenses

Unexplained travel expenses were another big finding in the audit. For instance, Theroux allotted a total of \$1,825 for travel expenses for four business-related trips to Cape Cod.

The only problem was that Theroux spent each trip in his own condo. Allegedly, neighboring residents would sign documents, claiming to verify that Theroux paid to stay at their residences; Theroux was subsequently reimbursed for

a fee he hadn't paid.

When confronted about having committed possible fraud, Theroux declined to comment but did note that he repaid the money following the audit's release.

"I would like to comment further to clear up this issue, but, unfortunately, at this point I cannot," said Theroux, adding that the invoices were less than "any other lodging that was possibly available."

Separately, several board members received a total of \$7,983 from an investment firm to cover travel expenses to a conference. The board only reimbursed the firm after it had been made clear that a violation occurred.

"Yes it was a violation, but it was not done maliciously; it was an oversight. We have now made the payment," said Bartley.

Markel quickly questioned how the veteran board members were unaware of state law.

"Is it not common knowledge amongst municipal employees and officials, reinforced every year by a requirement from the Ethics Commission, that no one can accept a gratuity of any kind above \$50? Was the board not aware of that and did the attorneys not advise the board that accepting was a direct violation of state statute," said Markel.

Social Security

The audit went on to report that multiple board members earned thousands of dollars in Social Security despite a state statute that prohibits public employees from collecting social security.

"Every employee in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts knows that we are not a Social Security state," said Markel. "It is more than astonishing that veteran municipal officials would not understand that. Secondly, if there was a question, consult the attorney, and then be told it is not legal to take out Social Security; you are a public employee in Massachusetts."

Bartley again claimed that the action was the result of an oversight. She noted that the three members who received Social Security had been acting, contributing members of the system and subsequently retired.

"I wasn't aware that they could be treated as retired annuitants of the system and, therefore we would not have to set up a separate retirement account for them," said Bartley. "Since I have been informed that this was incorrect, I have subsequently sent a letter to Social Security to ask that the employer share of the \$4,800 be returned to the board because it was taken out in error."

Salary increases and unexplained overtime

The audit reported a number of "unapproved" salary increases for Theroux that exceeded the permitted annual stipend of \$4,500. Despite having a vote and being Chairman/Treasurer, Theroux adamantly expressed his belief that this was permissible because he is "not a board member," although he later rescinded the belief near the end of the meeting still without explaining the stipend.

Additionally, the audit identified that documents containing overtime information only listed staff names and salaries without indicating hourly wages or how many hours were worked.

Again, the board chalked its mistake up to an oversight, one that resulted from system-wide elections. Overtime was needed to ensure that the elections met mandated deadlines.

"The cost for running that election is well over \$10,000, and it is not anything that the board nor I can anticipate due to the fact that an individual can choose to run and pick up nomination papers that are not due to the system until October, which is well after the budget is complete for that fiscal year," said Bartley.

Moving forward, Bartley promised that the board will make hourly wages and amounts of overtime incurred more visible on the front of its yearly warrant.

Monthly financials

The PERAC audit also noted that the board exceeded its FY2017 budget by 6.5% or \$60,507. The board again blamed the occurrence on system-wide elections and their financial demand.

Bartley also explained that the board exceeded the 2017 budget partially due to the, "retirement of a longtime staff member, who by contract, needed to be paid a buy-out one-time only of benefits she accrued and were payable to her upon notice of her retirement."

Aftermath

Following the discussion on March 3, which extended well beyond the points mentioned above, officials on the conference call voiced their collective displeasure. Even if the board acted non-maliciously, Davenport questioned if the members could ever be trusted again.

"Given how many times we've heard today that the Chairman and [Executive] Director were unaware and didn't know the law or wasn't sure or had no idea about certain things; do you have confidence that they can go forward and run this administration?" said Davenport, to which all five board members expressed that they should maintain their positions.

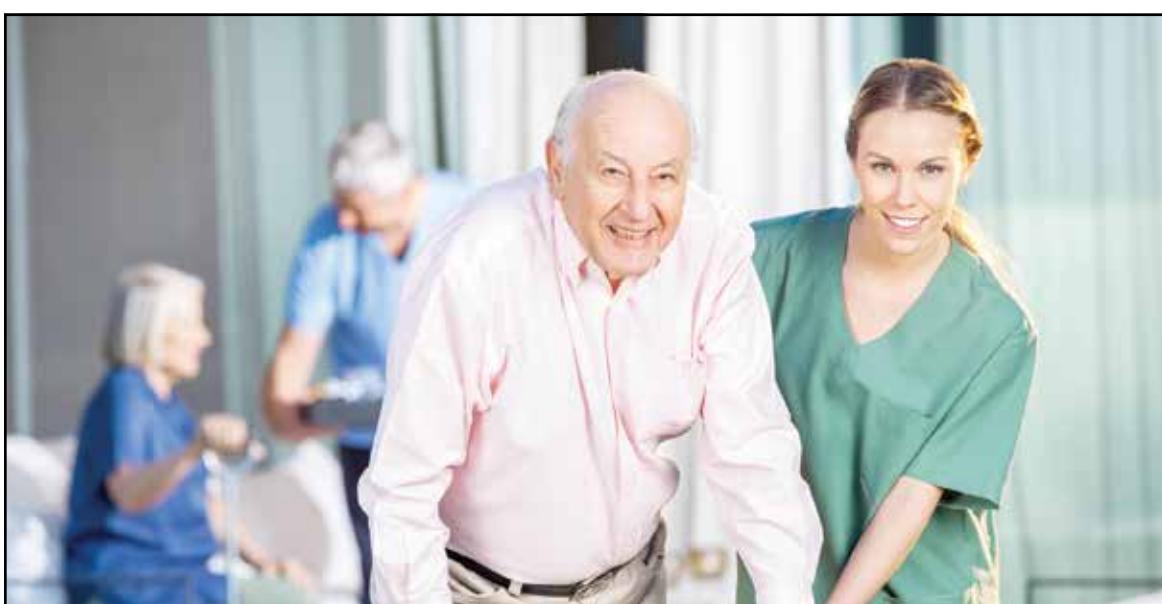
Theroux responded, categorizing the audit as being "disturbing."

He promised to take action to ensure similar events do not unfold. However, he largely deflected blame, noting that the board's portfolio had risen to \$456,000,402 in December of 2020 with an average return rate of 8.8%.

"I am more than proud of doubling this board's assets over the past 10 years," said Theroux.

The board noted that it has six to offer further explanations for the misappropriation of funds, as PERAC will follow up in August or September. Another conference call could occur as soon as next month.

"We have been working on this daily to get the answers out given the gravity of this audit. We will continue to do that," said Theroux.



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Clothing collection goes to end of the month

AGAWAM – Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills has been collecting donations of white socks, hats, scarfs, gloves and gently used and washed since January. We have so far made five truck loads to the South Congregational Church in Springfield where the donations are sorted and made available to those in need. Thanks to your enormous generosity we have been able to fill their needs. The donations for the remainder of the month will be going to the Springfield Rescue Mission. The drive will continue through the end of March 2021. If you have any questions, please call our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 786.8200 ext. 3.

Boldyga to take part in re-districting

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Legislature recently announced committee assignments for the 2021-2022 legislative session. State Representative Nick Boldyga (R-Southwick) was named to the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, the Committee on Rules, the Committee on Financial Services, and will serve as the ranking minority on the newly created Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight.

When asked about his committee assignments, Representative Boldyga stressed the importance of transparency. "The bulk of the legislative process takes place at the committee level, we need to ensure that members of the public continue to have an opportunity to participate in hearings so that their voice is heard," said Representative Boldyga. "Lack of transparency continues to be a major concern of mine as committee leadership often rushes bills through without input from the public."

Representative Boldyga said transparency will be particularly important as this year the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting will convene with the responsibility to redraw congressional and state legislative districts based on the results of the 2020 census. Boldyga is 1 of 5 members of the Republican Party appointed to the special committee composed of both Representatives and Senators. "Everyone is familiar with the term 'gerrymandering,'" said Boldyga. "It's a very powerful committee that will shape voting districts for the next 10 years. All of the committee's work must be done under the watchful eye of the public."

In 2011-2012 the Special Joint Committee on Redistricting held 13 public hearings throughout the Commonwealth with over 4,000 members of the public attending. Representative Boldyga said that with the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing that he is concerned committee leadership, like they have done with other legislative committees, will make hearings less accessible for citizens to engage with. "We certainly will need to follow protocols to ensure hearings are done with everyone's safety in mind, but we can't continue to use the pandemic as an excuse to box the public out of the legislative process and do work in secret," said Boldyga. "I'm honored to be a member of this committee and will not only be a voice for residents of my district, but for every Massachusetts citizen. I'll do everything I can to ensure that those that want to be involved will have the opportunity to do so."

In addition to advocating for more transparency, Representative Boldyga said inclusivity will be equally important. "I look forward to working with the Black and Latino Caucus and other groups to examine how district lines, especially in the Greater Springfield area and parts of Hampden County, can be redrawn to more accurately represent the minority populations in those communities."

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Town selling rain barrels once again

AGAWAM – The town is encouraging residents to harvest and save rainwater with the use of rain barrels. A rain barrel collects water from the roof when it rains and stores it for use during dry weather to water house plants or outside plantings. Collecting water in a rain barrel is an excellent way to save some of the runoff and take the pressure off our water supply and stormwater management systems. By using the rainwater on your gardens you are helping to replenish your groundwater and benefit our water supply. Collected rainfall is especially valuable during droughts or dry conditions. It contains more nutrients and less salts than tap water, so it's great for plants.

After a delay in distribution due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2020, the town is resuming the sale of rain barrels again.

"It's that time of year again to start thinking about water conservation and saving rain water. Our goal is to make water conservation a way of life for our residents," said Mayor Sapelli. "Harvesting rain water is good stewardship practice for conserving water and reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff on Agawam's wetlands, rivers, and streams."

The town will be selling 60-gallon rain barrels repurposed from recycled food grade barrels in a terra cotta color. The fully screened intake port keeps mosquitoes, insects, and debris out. The lid can be removed for easy cleaning and for storing hoses inside the barrel during the winter. The solid brass threaded spigot can be connected to a regular hose or soaker hose. The overflow connector and tubing can be used to direct water away from the foundation or to join multiple barrels for additional storage capacity.

The Town of Agawam will be taking orders with payment through March 31 and has scheduled a rain barrel pick-up day on Thursday, April 15 at the Department of Public Works, 1000 Suffield Street, Agawam from 3 to 5 p.m. or by appointment. The cost of the rain barrel is \$60 each. To order, send payment and order form to the Department of Public Works. Please make check payable to the vendor, "Jack Miller". Order forms are available online at www.agawam.ma.us or at the Department of Public Works.



Rain barrels can help with the harvesting and preserving of rainwater.
SUBMITTED PHOTO



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www.lacucinahampden.com

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

About working while collecting early Social Security benefits

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I will be 65 in August of this year. If I start drawing Social Security on my 65th birthday, how will my Social Security check be affected if I continue working at my full-time job, and take home \$1,380 every two weeks, until I reach my full retirement age? Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior: Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before they have reached their full retirement age, or FRA. There is also a "first-year rule," which applies when someone claims benefits mid-year, prior to their full retirement age. The first-year rule says that if you exceed a monthly limit you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, and that applies for each remaining month in the first year, after your benefits start. Then, starting in 2022, you'll be subject to an annual earnings limit. Since you will reach your full retirement age in 2022, your annual limit that year will be a bit more than the 2021 FRA-year limit of \$50,520 (the earnings limits change annually).

If you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65, for the remainder of 2021 you'll be subject to a monthly earnings limit of \$1,580. And if your gross earnings for each remaining month in 2021 are more than that, and yours would be, then you won't be entitled to Social Security benefits for the remaining months of 2021. For clarity, you would also have the option to request that the annual limit (\$18,960 for 2021) be used instead of the monthly limit, but at your earnings level you would still be required to repay all of your 2021 benefits, using the annual limit would require you to repay \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit.

When you file your income taxes next year, Social Security will discover you exceeded the 2021 earnings limit and require you to repay all benefits received in 2021. By "repay," I mean they will give you an option to repay everything they paid you in 2021 in a lump sum, or they will withhold future benefits until they recover what you owe because you exceeded the monthly limit. Alternatively, you could request a less severe repayment plan, but you would need to negotiate that directly with Social Security.

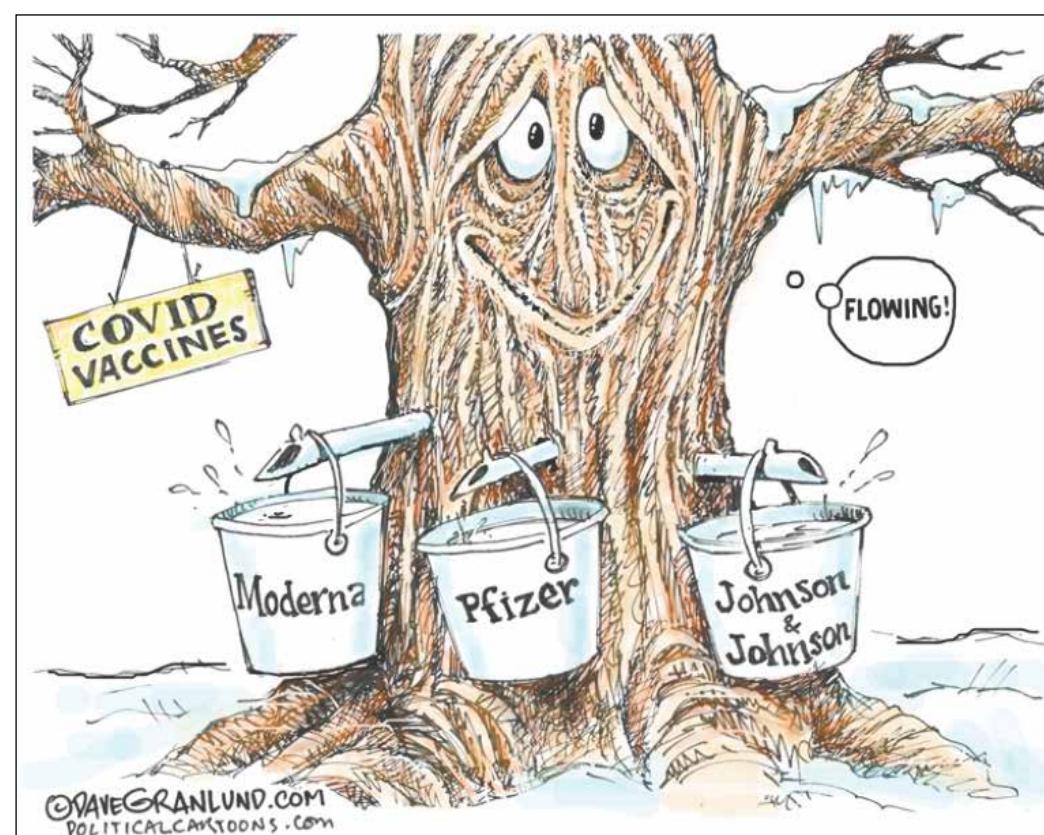
Essentially, if you plan to continue working full time in 2021, it may be wise to simply delay claiming your Social Security for a while, because you will end up needing to return any benefits paid in 2021. You could still claim in August and then inform them you will exceed the limit; in which case they will simply withhold your benefits. But in any case, you won't be eligible for Social Security benefits in 2021 at the earnings level you shared.

As explained above, your 2022 earnings limit will be more than the 2021 limit of \$50,520 for those achieving FRA, and if you claim benefits to start in January 2022 that higher annual limit would apply. If you're still working full time at the same earnings level, you probably will not exceed the 2022 annual limit, so your benefits wouldn't be affected. But if you get a raise and exceed the 2022 limit, Social Security will want back \$1 for every \$3 you exceeded the limit by the FRA-year rate.

Of course, since the earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, you might also consider just waiting until your FRA to claim Social Security and completely avoid the earnings test.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Cabbage conundrums

I always feel a bit guilty on St. Patrick's Day. What kind of Irish girl am I if I don't particularly like corned beef and cabbage? Most of my life I found the meat too salty and the cabbage... well, too cabbagey. The past couple of years, though, in an effort to help my gut microbiome replenish itself after too many Lyme antibiotics, I began taking an interest in fermented foods. Sauerkraut has become one of my favorites.

Last year I met a woman at a Grange talk who had a basement full of sauerkraut she made herself. Intrigued and always up for a homesteading challenge, I decided then and there that I was going to grow enough cabbage to fill my basement, too. The only problem was that I never had much success with this vegetable. Sure, I've enjoyed a homegrown head or two, but a cabbage farmer I am not. Thugs, slugs, bugs and cracks, in that particular order, have always thwarted my best efforts. Read on to learn about my experiences as I went from growing a half dozen cabbage plants to over 30.

I sowed my cabbage seeds indoors off heat the second week of April last year. When the first true leaf appeared, I transplanted the seedlings into individual cells of six packs and watered with a liquid fertilizer diluted to half strength. Bright light but cool temperatures grew stocky plants, and by May 15 they were ready to be hardened off. They were installed into the garden a week before Memorial Day. Most of the plants went into one of my rock-edged raised beds. I thought I was so smart. First I installed three-foot hardware cloth to keep out the bunnies (thugs), then I laid soaker hoses to and fro, knowing how these beds can bake in the heat and dry out daily. Cabbages aren't what you would call heat-loving. If that wasn't enough, I then covered the whole thing with a floating row cover, anticipating that the cabbage looper, the cabbage worm and the imported cabbage worm (all bugs) would visit and demolish my seedlings in no time. All my bases were covered, literally, and things were going great. The leaves began to pucker and curl: the seedlings were on their way to making heads!



Roberta McQuaid

But alas, I began to notice holes in the leaves. The kind of holes where you can see a shiny trail. Slugs had found my cabbage patch. Sometimes there were even dark gray slugs still attached to the leaves. Big ones, little ones, yuck! I began hand picking furiously, every morning at sunrise and again just before dark. Things finally began to look up and then the aphids (yet more bugs) hit. Did you ever see gray aphids in such an abundance that they look more like a waxy coating than individual bugs? Yessiree, that was my cabbage patch. I think, because this set-up of mine only required that I turn on the soaker hose and not lift the cover and inspect my plants, things got way out of control. Had I seen the first few aphids I could have maybe blown them off with a spray of water, or waited until evening and sprayed with soap to smother the bugs. But once heads form and the aphids are within the overlapping leaves, you might as well call the party over and plant a cover crop instead. Live and learn.

Thankfully, this is not the end of the story. There were six cabbage transplants that I couldn't fit in the raised bed. I planted them at the end of my broccoli row in the main garden. Although plagued with a few slugs, and even a few bugs, I was able to harvest each head and made my first ever batch of sauerkraut, totally just about two gallons worth! As my bounty dwindles near winter's end, I am already strategizing this year's cabbage crop. I am going to try growing an early variety to try and beat the worst of the bugs.

Although still not a fan of corned beef, cabbage has surely found its place in my palate and in my garden.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Fundraiser being held in honor of Flynn

AGAWAM – Even with the pandemic, the fond memories of deceased Agawam Water Department foreman Jim Flynn are able to live on, with a grave side remembrance and an on-line Dakin Humane Society fund raiser, furthering his love of animals.

On Oct. 30, the fifth anniversary of Flynn's sudden passing, two dozen friends and his beloved Golden Retriever 'Jameson', met at his grave for a somber, snowy, masked, socially distanced, tribute and blessing. After his passing, the Piccin family, great friends of Jim and Jameson, welcomed Jameson into their loving home, where he has been a member of their family since.

With the pandemic and a de-



Jim Flynn and his best friend on Crowe's Pasture Beach on Cape Cod. SUBMITTED PHOTO

sire to avoid "sharing much more than pizza and memories", Flynn's family and friends did not hold their annual, in person, early February, 'Flynn's Birthday Party' at the Italian Sporting Club, instead hosting a Dakin Humane Society on-line fund-raising event. To date, it has raised over \$2,000, when combined with the donations from the previous five annual 'Flynn's Birthday Parties', over \$7,000 has been raised for Dakin Humane Society in his memory. Organizers are hoping to resume the annual, in person, Dakin fund raisers at the Italian Sporting Club on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.



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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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Boldyga calls for swift action on bills to provide financial relief to small businesses

BOSTON – State Representative Nicholas Boldyga (R-Southwick) is calling on House and Senate leadership to act quickly to pass legislation that will assist the state's employers who are continuing to struggle financially during the ongoing global pandemic.

Representative Boldyga is one of several dozen legislators urging the adoption of an unemployment insurance rate freeze, along with a change in the state's tax laws to protect businesses from being taxed for loans they secured through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

Initiated by House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. and Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, two letters were submitted to House and Senate leadership on March 4 and signed by a bipartisan group of legislators from both branches, including Representative Boldyga. One letter expresses support for House Bill 55, an unemployment insurance rate freeze proposal filed by Governor Charlie Baker, while the other calls for the passage of four bills that would create a state tax exemption for PPP loans. The letters were addressed to House Speaker Ronald Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, and Senate Ways and Means Chairman Michael Rodrigues.

House Bill 55 would freeze the experience rate for employers at Schedule "E" for calendar years 2021 and 2022. Without legislative action, employers will be facing a significant rate increase that would see their unemployment insurance taxes jump from \$539 to \$858 per worker this year, with additional incremental increases taking effect in subsequent years.

Noting that "Massachusetts has seen a steady drop in unemployment following a long-term period of double-digit unemployment numbers" as more individuals have been able to return to work, legislators warned that "the scheduled experience rate increase of 60% in unemployment taxes, which will take place in just a few weeks, threatens to sabotage this progress," and would have a "dire financial impact" on employers.

"If enacted, Governor Baker's bill will provide timely relief for Massachusetts

businesses by freezing this scheduled rate increase, while also ensuring the positive solvency of the Unemployment Trust Fund through bonding," legislators wrote.

In addition to supporting Governor Baker's proposal, Representative Boldyga is also backing legislation to exempt forgivable PPP loans from the state income tax. The letter cites four bills that have been filed to accomplish this goal, including HD484 (filed by Representative Jones and Representative Michael Soter), HD1338 (filed by Representative Brian Murray), HD1965 (filed by Representative Steven Xiarhos), and SD172 (filed by Senator Eric Lesser).

Section 1106 of Public Law No. 116-136, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides loan forgiveness to small businesses for certain loans made pursuant to the PPP under the Small Business Act. Under the Act, any amount of cancelled debt associated with the PPP loan that would otherwise be includable in the gross income of the borrower under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) for federal income tax purposes is excluded from gross income.

Representative Boldyga noted that Massachusetts' corporate tax code conforms with federal tax laws, but that isn't the case with the state's personal income tax code. As a result, many independent contractors, restaurants and small businesses will have to collectively pay an estimated \$150 million in state taxes on their PPP loans unless the law is changed.

"If business owners had been aware of this tax, they may have budgeted for the cost of state taxes or chosen to forgo receiving a loan," legislators wrote, adding that business owners have expressed concerns the tax liability "will create further financial hardship for them."

"Clearly, the intent of the Paycheck Protection Program was for the loans to be forgiven, and taxing them would go against the original intent of the program," legislators wrote. "We believe that it is crucial to take action prior to March 15 to ensure that these loans are not subject to state taxes, and to provide certainty for small business owners."

sembled those by herself.

"We wanted small tools for students to use while at their desks or online remotely engaging in school," DeJesus said. "The kits were small enough to store at their desk and not be a distraction. We selected items that have typically been used in counseling offices or the classroom's calming corners."

With the knowledge that students wouldn't be able to access these kinds of support, it was clear to DeJesus that the comfort kits would be highly utilized. The students will use fidget toys to decrease anxiety levels, calm their emotions, and reduce excess energy and stress so they can remain engaged in learning during classes.

DeJesus explained that she and Barber went through the school adjustment counselors and School Counselors to distribute the Comfort Kits throughout the district.

"The counselors included a short video for students to watch to introduce them to what the kits were for and how to use them," DeJesus said. "I believe they have helped students. I don't necessarily have pre or post data to share with you but the feedback was great." She explained that the kits include typical tools to ease stress and anxiety, and to regain focus, research has found these results to be true even for adults.

The Rotary Club gave the kits to DeJesus and all the kits have been distributed among APS students from elementary school to the high school, students and staff have given appreciative comments to DeJesus about the Comfort Kits. The service opportunity of making these kits and distributing them came to the Rotary Club after hearing from DeJesus, who described the impact of COVID on APS students during the 2020-21 school year. DeJesus said the pandemic caused children to have a loss of routine, loss of connection, and in some cases a loss of significant people in their lives.

Comfort kits were made last fall and have provided help to the students who received them. DeJesus said when the kits were distributed in the fall students were

STUDENTS ■ from page 1

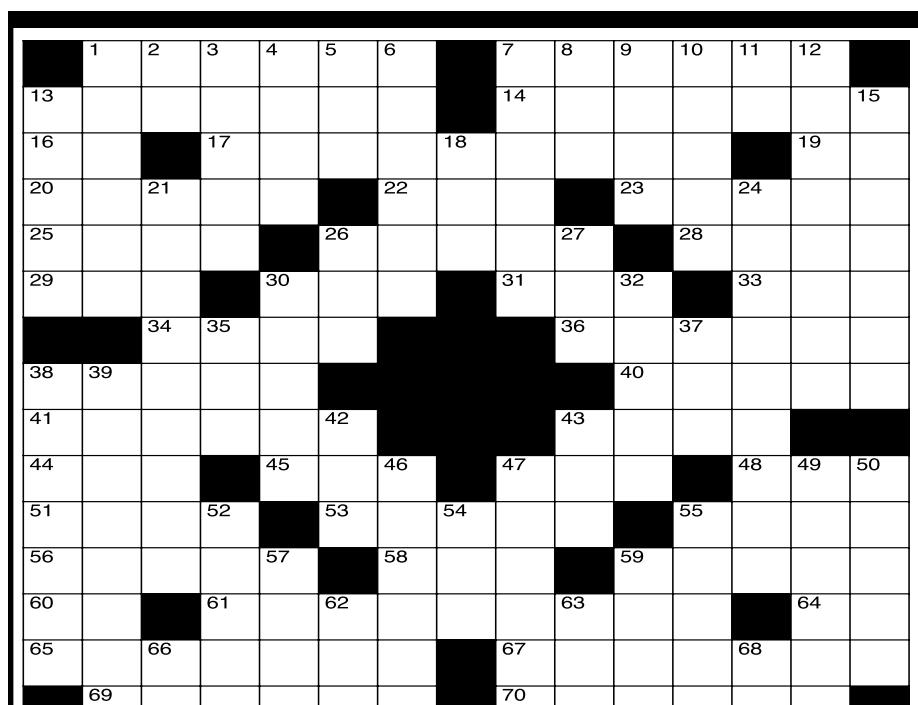


Comfort kits were assembled for students in the Agawam Public Schools. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Marlene DeJesus holds a comfort kit she received last week.

just coming back to the school building after months of remote learning at home. The comfort kits allowed students to deal with the change of pace in classes and as school routines formed once more. DeJesus and Barber are both excited about the outcome of the Comfort Kit project and spoke positively of the partnership on it.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Large dung beetle
- 4. Organic compound
- 7. Representation of a plan
- 13. Section at the end of a book
- 14. In a fervid way
- 15. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 16. The Book of Psalms
- 17. Morning
- 18. Exactly the same
- 19. About
- 20. Brown and basmati are two
- 21. Swiss river
- 22. Philippine island
- 23. Expressions of surprise
- 24. An ant
- 25. Common Japanese surname
- 26. Deoxyribonucleic acid
- 27. Car mechanics group
- 28. A person's brother or sister
- 29. Ancient pharaoh
- 30. Quantitative fact
- 31. Vividly colored bird
- 32. Your home has one
- 33. City in southern Spain
- 34. One of the Gospels
- 35. Inquisitive
- 36. Jean Paul __, author
- 37. Pop singer Harry
- 38. Minute bug
- 39. One who rides in your car
- 40. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 41. One of the Gospels
- 42. One who rides in your car
- 43. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 44. Criticize
- 45. Split pulses
- 46. Brief trend
- 47. Cool!
- 48. Purposes
- 49. Pops
- 50. American air travel company
- 51. Skin condition
- 52. Brews
- 53. Pops
- 54. American air travel company
- 55. Minute bug
- 56. Purposes
- 57. Brews
- 58. Skin condition
- 59. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 60. Pops
- 61. Purposes
- 62. Brews
- 63. Skin condition
- 64. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 65. Pops
- 66. Brews
- 67. Purposes
- 68. Skin condition
- 69. Brews
- 70. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 71. Pops
- 72. Brews
- 73. Skin condition
- 74. Purposes
- 75. Brews
- 76. Skin condition
- 77. Purposes
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- 80. Purposes
- 81. Brews
- 82. Skin condition
- 83. Purposes
- 84. Brews
- 85. Skin condition
- 86. Purposes
- 87. Brews
- 88. Skin condition
- 89. Purposes
- 90. Brews
- 91. Skin condition
- 92. Purposes
- 93. Brews
- 94. Skin condition
- 95. Purposes
- 96. Brews
- 97. Skin condition
- 98. Purposes
- 99. Brews
- 100. Skin condition

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An ape or monkey
- 2. Chemical element
- 3. Zodiac sign (abbr.)
- 4. Removes
- 5. Brew
- 6. Nickname
- 7. Architectural structures
- 8. Trigonometric function
- 9. Postmodern architectural building
- 10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
- 11. Mountain (abbr.)
- 12. Landscaping practice
- 13. Capacitance unit
- 14. Redirect
- 15. Hat for women
- 16. In a way, dressed down
- 17. Granny
- 18. Jean Paul __, author
- 19. Endpoint
- 20. Indian instrument
- 21. Bleated
- 22. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 23. Root mean square
- 24. Jellyfishes
- 25. Individual TV installments
- 26. Talk
- 27. More (Spanish)
- 28. Leaseholder
- 29. Monetary units
- 30. Hostility
- 31. Work stations
- 32. Linguistics giant
- 33. Female sheep
- 34. Calendar month
- 35. Seasoning
- 36. Loft nest of a bird of prey
- 37. Single Lens Reflex
- 38. A way to remove
- 39. Virginia
- 40. Old English

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Schools & Youth

Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

Reminders:

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you're headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can't access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

Open Houses/Informational Sessions/Discovery Days:

Student registration is now open for the NEACAC Spring College Fairs, which will be held on the following dates and times: Sunday, March 14 from 1 to 3 p.m.; Wednesday, April 14 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. To date, there are over 170 colleges that are registered to participate in the program. Registration for students and school counselors is required, but free of charge. Please visit: neacac.swoogo.com/NEACACVirtual_Spring to register.

The National Association of College Admission Counseling will be hosting Focus Fairs designed especially for students with special interests or residing in specific regions: STEM (March 7), Performing & Visual Arts (March 16), Western US (April 10), and Southeastern US (April 20). Students may register at virtualcollegefairs.org

Whether you've already started your college search or have no idea where to begin, BigFuture Days will give you a chance to get information about multiple colleges from college admissions officers and current college students. The program for the Northeast will be held on Sunday, March 7. Please visit cb.org/bigfuturedays to register.

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges' websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

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\$cholarship Information:

The William R. Rooney Scholarship is available to residents of Hampden County who are members of the senior class and have been on an IEP or 504 Plan for two years. Please visit horacesmithfund.org for an application. The application deadline is March 15.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available to residents to Hampden County who are members of the senior class at their local public or private secondary schools. Awards will be made on the basis of all available information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Awards will be continued through the four year course if the student's record and need justify such continuance. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant. Please see horacesmithfund.org for details. The application deadline is March 15.

The Professional Women in Construction (PWC) - CT Chapter is pleased to offer multiple scholarships to students (male or female) enrolled in undergraduate or graduate degree programs in Construction, Construction Management, Interior Design, Architecture, Landscape Design, or Civil, Mechanical, Structural, and Electrical Engineering. The students must be enrolled full-time for the complete year. The application is available at pwcusa.org/chapters/about-connecticut/connecticut-scholarship/ and is due no later than March 17.

Seniors who attended the James Clark School (two-year minimum) are encouraged to apply for the James Clark PTO Scholarship. Applications are available in Naviance and are due no later than March 29.

The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts is offering a scholarship of \$1000 to qualified seniors who plan to further their education by attending a two or four-year college program. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by March 30.

The Agawam Municipal Scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors

or any persons pursuing their education beyond secondary school. The committee shall take into consideration each recipient's financial need, character, scholastic record, and involvement in school and community. The applications deadline is March 31.

Western Massachusetts seniors who plan to attend an accredited college or technical school to study advertising, communications, marketing or graphics arts and will be attending in September 2021 are encouraged to apply for the scholarship offered by The Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts. Applications are available at adclubwm.org and must be postmarked on or before March 31. The scholarship must be applied against tuition and fees at the school. Candidates will be judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a demonstrated interest in advertising, communications, marketing or graphic design, personal recommendations, and a letter of introduction outlining future plans. More information is available at adclubwm.org

The Pascal A. Deliso Scholarship is offered to students with distinguished academic ability, regular involvement in community service, commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, one parent of Italian descent, and have an acceptance to an accredited two- or four-year college or university. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted by April 1.

Applications for the Faolin Peirce Scholarship are now available in Naviance. Applicants must be an AHS graduate and must have attended an elementary school in Agawam. The candidate must also demonstrate financial need and academic ability. The application deadline is April 1.

The Agawam Rotary Club awards the Ray and Reita McCarroll Memorial Scholarship scholarships to seniors from Agawam and West Springfield. The Selection Committee will choose students who best exemplify Rotary's principal motto, "Service Above Self", and who show leadership abilities and a desire to make a contribution to their home, school, community and country. The applicant must be a high school senior residing in Agawam or West Springfield and be attending or scheduled to attend an accredited academic or technical college in the month of September following graduation from high school. Applications must be forwarded no later than April 1. Please see Naviance for an application.

The Andrew Gallano Scholarship for the Arts will be awarded to an Agawam resident going to college to pursue a degree in the cultural arts, including (but not limited to) painting, drama, languages, music, dance, journalism, poetry, architecture, and graphics. Applications are posted in Naviance and are due by April 1.

The Charles H. Heyl Vocational/Technical Scholarship/Grant is designed to financially assist an individual in obtaining an education related to a vocational/technical career or to grant an individual the amount of the scholarship for the purpose of purchasing tools or equipment to become established in his/her trade. The applicant need not be a high school senior. The appli-

cant must be a resident of Agawam. Applications are available in Naviance and must be submitted no later than April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Sullivan Family Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching and/or refereeing. Applicants must have had a parent or close relative who participated in Agawam Soccer as a coach, assistant coach, board member, or tournament volunteer. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Rich Parolo Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer for at least four years, AHS soccer for at least two years, and participated in extra-curricular soccer-related activities such as coaching, assistant coaching, or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in ASA soccer as a player and/or other ASA soccer-related activity such as coaching and/or refereeing. A grade average of B or higher must be maintained. Applications are available in Naviance and are due before April 1.

The Agawam Soccer Association Christopher Knight Scholarship application is now available. All applicants must be seniors who have participated in the ASA soccer program. Applications (due by April 1) are available in Naviance.

The Agawam Garden Club is offering a scholarship to a graduate or graduating senior of Agawam High School. Students must have a major from the following list: Botany, Environmental Engineering, Environment Science, Earth Systems, Forest Management, Natural Resources, Plant Soil & Insect Science, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Horticulture or Food & Farming, Turf Grass Science & Management, Landscape Design & Management Technology, Clean Energy, Technology Studies: Waste Water, or other environmental related studies. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by April 1.

JERICHO, the Bureau for Exceptional Children & Adults in Holyoke, is pleased to announce the availability of the Father Robert F. Wagner Memorial Scholarship. Two \$1,000.00 scholarships will be awarded annually to students from Western Massachusetts who are graduating from high school or are enrolled at an accredited college or university. To be eligible, a student must be a resident of Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, or Berkshire County, a graduating high school senior or a returning student attending an accredited college or university, and demonstrate either an intention to pursue a degree and a career dedicated to serving persons with disabilities, or be a person with a disability seeking to further his or her education. Applications are in Naviance and are due no later than April 1.

Lions make donation to APL

The Agawam Lions Foundation, Inc. donated new diabetes text resources to the Children's Library at the Agawam Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 27. Pictured are (left) Children's Librarian, Pamela Weingart and (right) Agawam Lions President, Deb Andrews.

This donation is part of the Agawam Lions' ongoing focus on diabetes education, awareness, and support to our Agawam community. The diabetes text resources in-

clude materials for young children, teens, and parent/caregivers and cover both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

A diabetes diagnosis can be overwhelming and in some cases, life changing for children, teens, and families. It is our hope that by donating these materials, we can help those in our community that are affected by diabetes find relevant and current information in a format that is relatable and helpful.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Obituaries

Catherine J. Hallaman

Catherine J. (Crean) Hallaman, 85, passed away on March 5, 2021 at Genesis at Westfield Center. She was born in Holyoke, MA to the late James R. and Florence E. (Allen) Crean. A lifetime resident of Agawam, she was a 1953 graduate of Agawam High School. Kate entered the former Springfield Hospital School of Nursing and graduate with her nursing diploma in 1956. She was employed by Springfield Hospital as an assistant head nurse for ten years, before working for the Town of Agawam as the school nurse at Agawam High School, retiring after 32 years in 1998. She enjoyed her friends at Quail Run, doing craft, ice cream and wine socials there, lunch with the girls and swimming at Fitness First. Kate was a longtime member of Old First Church, Court Square in Springfield for more than 60 years, she served on several boards and sang in the choir for many years. She was also a member of the Agawam Golden Agers, Chapter 2 and Agawam Congregational Church. Sadly, she was predeceased by her beloved husband Kenneth R. Hallaman on August 25, 1993, her brother, James A. Crean in October 1999 and a great granddaughter Brooklyn in 2018. Kate is survived by her two loving daughters, LouAnn Lehan with Dan Lehan of West Springfield and Kathleen J. Ramsdell and her husband Scott of West Springfield, her sister Nancy E. Modzelewski and her husband Edward of Agawam, sister-in-law Anna Crean of Feeding Hills, her five cherished grandchildren, Megan K. Rohan of West Springfield, Kayleigh Botta and her husband Giovanni of Feeding Hills, Connor P. Lehan and his wife Nikki of Columbus, OH, Sean M. Lehan of Lakewood, WA and Hannah M. Goldrup of West Springfield her adored great grandchildren, Emiddio, Anna Kate, Giovanni and Brynn, three nieces, Michelle Dunn, Jennifer Crean, Bridget Ichton and Amy Szabla, and her nephew Edward Modzelewski, all of Agawam. At Kate's request, her funeral will be held across the street from Agawam High School, where she proudly worked for over three decades, in Curran Jones Funeral Home, 745 Cooper St. Agawam. Visiting hours will be held on Wednesday March 10, 2021 from 4-7 PM, with a service to follow at 7 PM in the funeral home which will be available via livestream at <https://my.gather.app/remember/catherine-hallaman>. Burial will be private for the family in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills. Her family would like to thank the staff at Quail Run and Genesis at Westfield Center for the care and support given to Kate and her family. Donations in lieu of flowers may be directed to the Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St. Springfield, MA 01104. Arrangements are under the direction of the Firtion Adams Funeral Service, 76 Broad St. Westfield, MA 01085. www.firtionadams.com



Maria Pietroniro Malacria

1934-2021

Maria Pietroniro Malacria 86, beloved wife of the late Giovanni E. Pietroniro and the late Joe Malacria, passed away on March 5, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. Maria was born in Guglionesi, Province of Campobasso, Italy to the late Antonio and Rose (Matone) Strippa. After emigrating to the United States, Maria later guided and supported several other family members to join her and become U.S. citizens. Maria was a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Springfield. She retired as a housekeeper from the former Mediplex Nursing Home, East Longmeadow. Previously, she was employed as a cook by the Springfield School System. Being a gifted cook, she best expressed her love by the gatherings of family and friends around her kitchen table. Maria was predeceased by her son, Luigi J. Pietroniro; her siblings, Benito, Tomasso, Antonio, Giuseppina Strippa, and Irene Berardi; a grandson, Michael Pietroniro and a great grandson, Andrew Franco. Maria is survived by her two sons, John Pietroniro and his wife Maria, Vincent Pietroniro and his wife Carol, a daughter, Josephine DeSousa and her husband Augusto; a brother, Amedeo Strippa; a daughter in law, Margaret Pietroniro; a step daughter, Nella and her husband Victor Anoia; 11 grandchildren, Joanna and her husband Jose Franco, Tony DeSousa and his wife Laura, Mary DeSousa, Lina Pietroniro and her fiancé Joe Caporiccio, Christina Pietroniro, John C Pietroniro and his fiancé Sally Borgatti, Angelina Pietroniro, Nicolas Pietroniro, Kimberly Ruff and her partner Wayne Barker, Jennifer and her husband Nick Cioffi, James Pietroniro and his wife Ashlee; 11 great grandchildren; extended family both in the United States, Italy and Canada. The family wishes to extend a very special thank you to Maria's caregiver Brenda Rodriguez, whose love and kindness will never be forgotten. The family were to receive friends from on Wednesday, March 10, in the Forastiere Smith Family Funeral Home, 220 North Main St., East Longmeadow. Services will begin at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, March 11 from the funeral home. A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 123 Williams St., Springfield. Burial to follow in St. Michael's Cemetery, 1601 State Street, Springfield. Masks/social distancing to be observed at all times. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Baystate Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice (Baystate Health Foundation: baystatehealth.org/giving)

www.forastierefuneralhome.com

John E. Stokowski, Sr. 1939-2021

John E. Stokowski, Sr. age 81, beloved husband to Marianne R. (DePalo) Stokowski of 55 years, passed away on March 4, 2021. John was one of five children born in Springfield, a son of the late Edward J. and Sophie C. (Skowron) Stokowski. His siblings include Edmund (Rowena), Susan, Cynthia (Alan), and Robert (Sharon) who survive him. John was an honorably discharged U.S. Navy veteran who served his country stateside during the Vietnam War. A machinist during his career, John retired from Techni Products, East Longmeadow; and also was employed by the former Turcotte Manufacturing in Agawam.



John was a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Springfield.

In addition to his wife and siblings, John is survived by a son, John E. Stokowski, Jr and his wife, Cheryl of North Carolina; a daughter, Elisa A. Stokowski and her partner Theresa Byrd of Warren, MA; 2 grandchildren, Michael J. Stokowski of Connecticut and Lauren L. Stokowski of Maryland; along with extended family members. The family wishes to acknowledge and thank the doctors, nurses and entire staff of Daly 6 at Baystate Medical Center for their compassionate care. Calling hours and funeral services took place earlier this week.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 123 Williams St., Springfield, MA 01105. www.forastiere.com

Chad D. Blackak 1971-2021

Agawam - Chad David Blackak 49, passed away unexpectedly at home on March 1, 2021. Chad was born in Charleston, South Carolina the Beloved son of Matthew D. Blackak and Deborah A. (Doubour) Blackak of Feeding Hills. A lifelong resident of Agawam, he graduated from the Agawam School System. While at Agawam High School Chad excelled in both soccer and wrestling. He received awards in both Western Massachusetts and State championships in Wrestling. He later coached Wrestling at the High School. Chad graduated from AIC with a BSN. Early in his career he found joy in Childhood Adolescent Behavioral Health. Chad was employed as a Nurse Manager for 19 years at the institute of living in Hartford. While there, he proudly received the Florence Nightingale Nurse of the Year Award. Chad was currently employed at the Brattleboro retreat as a nurse manager in adolescence. In addition to his parents, Chad leaves his daughter Lauren and son Kade Blackak. He also leaves Sandra (O'Keefe) Blackak with whom he shares his children. A sister Kerry Smith and her husband Gerald F. Smith Jr. and their children Aidan and Laine all of Feeding Hills, his grandfather Matthew "Poppa" Blackak and his partner Gail, his loving partner Hannah Provost and her children, Lauren and her husband Gabe DeGray, and Taylor Provost. He will be sadly missed by many special uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and many many lifelong friends. Chad was predeceased by his maternal grandmother Alice "Memo" Dubour, grandfather, Everett Dubour; and his paternal grandmother Lucille "Gam" Blackak. Most recently Chad and Hannah have enjoyed cooking, sports, traveling and most of all time with their families. Family and friends may gather from 12 noon until 2 p.m. on Saturday March 13 at the Colonial Forastiere Family Funeral Home, 985 Main St., Agawam. Masks/social distancing and please follow the directions of the funeral home staff in regards to visitor capacity in the funeral home. The funeral ceremony to follow is private. Live streaming of the funeral ceremony available beginning at 1:45 p.m. Please visit Chad's "Tribute Page" on the funeral home's website at www.forastiere.com to receive the link. During COVID, in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Heart Association, 54 Wayside Ave. #C, West Springfield MA 01089.



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Death Notices

Blackak, Chad David

Died: March 1, 2021
Funeral Ceremony is Private

Hallaman (Crean), Catherine J.

Died: March 5, 2021
Funeral Services via livestream

Kibbe, Virginia

Died: February 27, 2021
Funeral Services are Private

Malacria, Maria

Died: March 5, 2021
Services March 11, 8:45 a.m.
Forastiere Smith Family Funeral Home

Quill, Jr., Jeremiah C.

Died: March 8, 2021
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home

Stokowski, Sr., John E.

Died: March 4, 2021

Jeremiah C. Quill, Jr. 88

Jeremiah C. Quill, Jr. 88, passed away at his home on Monday, March 8. Jerry was born in Springfield and resided in Agawam for the past 60 years. He was predeceased by his parents Jeremiah and Margaret, his loving wife Marie, and his in-laws Andrew Maciolek and Dale Jones. He is survived by his children Kathleen (Lawrence) Weitz; Patricia (David) Robinson; Jeremiah (Patricia) Quill and Michael (Margaret) Quill; his brother Richard Quill; his in-laws Janet Maciolek, Roseann and Anthony Scussel; 9 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren; many nieces, nephews and cousins and dear friend Connie Motroni.

Jerry served in the Army for two years and attended Western New England College (Mechanical Engineering) while working full time and raising four children. He worked as an engineer at Hamilton Standard.

Above all, Grampa loved his family and passed on that love to his entire extended family. He was an avid golfer, skilled woodworker and "fixer", and he cherished spending winters in Florida with Marie. He was known for his wit, his generosity, and his ever up-to-date fashion sense.

Virginia G. Kibbe

Virginia "Ginny" Kibbe, 92, of Agawam and formerly of Southwick, passed away surrounded by the love of her devoted family on Saturday, February 27th. She was born in Southwick on April 22, 1928 to the late Angelo and Elizabeth Garcia. She was employed for many years as a bookkeeper for Westfield Bank in their main office. Ginny was an avid flower gardener and could always be found walking her neighborhood-stopping to chat with her neighbors along the way. She was a devoted supporter of Agawam High School sports and kept in contact with many former student athletes, a tradition she continued from her late husband. She loved her sweets as well as the occasional Bloody Mary, prepared just the way she liked it. Ginny also never missed an episode of her favorite show, "Chicago PD" and enjoyed reading, especially John Grisham novels. She enjoyed going to Cape Cod with her daughter and son-in-law and sitting in her favorite Adirondack chair overlooking the water. One of the most important things Ginny enjoyed was the role of Grandma to her beloved grandson Bryce. Ginny was predeceased by her parents, her loving husband Clifford Sr. and her brother Ray. She will be forever missed by her son Clifford Jr. and his wife Carol and their son Bryce, with whom she made her home and her daughter Bonnie Willey and her husband Gene of Southwick. She also leaves many nieces and nephews. Funeral services for Ginny are being held privately as per her wishes. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Virginia's memory to the Shriners Hospital for Children: Processing Center, P.O. Box 863765, Orlando, FL 32886



SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Brownies upset by Ware in final game

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARE—There were several memorable moments for the Ware girls' varsity basketball team during the final week of the season. One of those moments took place on Feb. 27.

The Lady Indians, who are a Division 4 team, closed out the home schedule with a 44-35 victory over the Agawam Lady Brownies, who are a Division 1 squad.

"We beat a Division 1 team in our final high school basketball game in this gym, which was our goal," said Ware senior Aidyn Welsh. "We just gave it our all and it's an amazing feeling. This is definitely one of our biggest wins of the season."

Ware, who finished the season with an 8-5 overall record, played their final four games of the season on consecutive nights.

The final stretch began with the Lady Indians pulling out a 43-42 win at Ludlow High School, last Tuesday night. The hero of that game was senior Olivia Vaudnais who hit a shot at the buzzer to win it.

The six Ware seniors were honored during an emotional senior night celebration held before the start of last Wednesday's home game versus Pathfinder, which was a double-digit victory.

The Ware seniors, who were honored, are Amelia Bonnayer,

FINAL | page 9



Stefanie Phillips attempts to block a Ware shot. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Delaney Brown and Keeley Cote defend against a Ware player.

RACING

McDermott balancing variety of roles in 2021

SEEKONK – Whether it's been as a crew chief, spotter, driver, mechanic or in another role, Cam McDermott has built quite the resume in short-track racing. He started his career driving in quarter midgets, quickly moved to the Thompson Speedway Modified division, where he won the championship -- and from there, his career has blossomed in a variety of different directions.

For 2021, McDermott is going to be quite the busy guy once again -- but his preparations for the season includes getting the No. 8 Maybury Material Handling machine ready for competition in the six Tri Track Open Modified Series events. McDermott will be behind the wheel of the family-owned machine to join a talent-filled group of competitors on the Tri Track circuit.

"We're mainly going to focus on the Tri Track stuff this year, transitioning into that after focusing on the Stafford Motor Speedway Open Modified races the last few years," McDermott said. "The competition with Tri Track is always great. I want to go out there and compete against the best -- I love doing that. On the ownership side of Tri Track, with what Wayne (Darling) and Ed (Bennett) are doing, it's good for the racers and the teams."



Cam McDermott serves a lot of roles on his racing team. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Outside of driving, McDermott will be working as crew chief for Eddie Harvey Racing on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, with his close friend Woody Pitkat, driving. McDermott is ready to tackle that role after more than a decade working with the legendary Pasteryak family, where he recently was the crew chief for Chris Pasteryak. Back when McDermott was winning races and a championship in the Thompson Modifieds, McDermott was connected with the Pasteryak family, started helping Carl on his car, and from there, became a major part of the operation. During the

last decade, he says he completed just about every job there is on a Modified race team, minus maybe being the jackman or gasman on a pit stop. He also has experience working with Woody Pitkat in Pitkat's championship run at Stafford Motor Speedway, and when Pitkat was competing for Buzz Chew Racing on the Nascar Whelen Modified Tour as a spotter.

McDermott's driving experience also includes competing in the Lite Modified division at Thompson, where he was the champion, and at Stafford Motor

FOOTBALL

Football season ready to get underway

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – For the first time ever, it will be football season in March and April, and teams will be playing into the warm instead of playing into the cold.

Rivalries will be renewed and the many games local fans love to see will take place over the next two months over the course of a six-week modified schedule.

While football was not played on Thanksgiving, some of the weather teams will play in during the first few weeks will feel like Thanksgiving. And some of the classic Thanksgiving matchups will take place, including Agawam versus West Springfield, Chicopee versus Chicopee Comprehensive, and East Longmeadow versus Longmeadow.

Another big matchup scheduled between smaller schools is a classic rivalry between Palmer and Ware. That game is usually the culmination of the Tri-County League schedule for both teams in the fall, but will be a great way for the two teams to renew acquaintances since no football was played last fall.

Minnechaug will have a full slate of games. Minnechaug has been a strong team in Division 3 the past few years, playing twice in the finals in recent years against powerful Central High School. They will also meet several other rivals, like Longmeadow and East Longmeadow.

Another team that is normally part of the powerful AA Conference is Holyoke High School. Holyoke will renew acquaintances with both Minnechaug and Agawam during the abbreviated football season.

The football season is especially significant for Holyoke because the Knights as a school, will be participating in an athletic conference for the first time since Oct. 21, when the fall season was cut short in the city because Holyoke entered its third straight week of being in the red, high-risk for COVID-19 spread category. At that point, Holyoke officials stopped playing off all sports, cancelling the remainder of the fall season. Holyoke remained in the red category due to the second surge for four months, and officials cancelled the winter sea-

RACING | page 9

FOOTBALL | page 9

Sports

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilhunter@comcast.net.

FINAL ■ from page 8

Lexie Orszulak, Audrey LaValley, Chelsea Orszulak, Vadnais, and Welsh, who became a member of the elite 1,000-point club on February 11.

"I've been coaching the seniors for a very long time and I'm really going to miss coaching them a lot," said Ware head Dan Orszulak. "We've been a very successful basketball team during the past couple of years, but I'm looking forward to a new challenge next year."

The Lady Indians wrapped up their season with a loss at Amherst Regional, last Friday night.

The six Ware seniors, who won more than fifty games during their outstanding varsity career's, combined to score 41 points in the home finale against Agawam.

LaValley led the way offensively for the home team, as she posted a double-double with a game-high 14 points and 10 rebounds. She scored 9 of her points during the second half.

"The seniors have been playing basketball together for many years and we've come so far," LaValley said. "The past four years went by really fast and it's hard to believe that I won't be playing basketball for this team next year."

Just like LaValley, Welsh also scored 9 of her 12 points during the second half. She was also credited with 4 assists.

Chelsea Orszulak, who played one her best games of the season, scored 8 points and she had 11 rebounds.

Vadnais added 5 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists.

The Lady Brownies (7-6) struggled offensively in the first half, especially during the second quarter when they were outscored 14-6 by the Lady Indians.

"We didn't play very well offensively for about a five-minute stretch during the second quarter, which turned out to be the difference in the final outcome," said Agawam head coach Tim Murphy. "It set the tone for the rest of the game. Other than that span, I thought it was an evenly played game. We really didn't know very much about Ware, but they're a very talented basketball team."

The Agawam head coach had to deal with injuries to several key players throughout the season.

"We didn't know at times who would be able to play in a game," Murphy said. "We did have a few players step up and play very well."

One of the Agawam injured players is senior Jessica D'Amours, who scored close to 500 points during her high school career. She's planning to continue her basketball career at Fisher College, which is a NAIA school in Boston, next year.

"Unfortunately, Jess has been injured a lot during the past couple of years. Not having her on the court really hurts us," Murphy said. "She was our leading scorer and rebounder this season."

The other three seniors listed on the Agawam varsity roster are Keeley Cote (4 points), Stephanie Maloni (6 points), and Delaney Brown (10 points).

"The seniors are the first class that I've coached for all four years," Murphy added. "I coached them in my final year as the j.v.



Multiple players try to suppress a shot. SUBMITTED PHOTO

coach and the last three years at the varsity level. It's been nice to watch them improve as basketball players and I've enjoyed coaching them a lot."

Sophomore Stefanie Phillips also scored 10 points for Agawam against Ware.

Rachel Cohen, who's another sophomore listed on the Lady Brownies roster, played in her first varsity game in the season finale. She didn't score any points.

With 1:40 remaining in the first quarter, a pair of made free throws by Cote gave the Lady Brownies an 8-4 lead.

The Lady Indians then responded with a 13-0 run.

Following a jumper from the right corner by Lexi Orszulak which were her only points of the game, junior Skylee McQuaid (3 points) buried a 3-pointer also from the right corner. It gave Ware a one-point lead heading into the second stanza.

The Lady Indians run would continue with an old fashion three-point play by Welsh. Then LaValley scored the next four points increasing Ware's lead to 16-8 with six minutes left in the first half.

Maloni halted the run for a moment with a 3-pointer.

It didn't take the Lady Indians very long to get going again as Chelsea Orszulak scored the next six points.

She was fouled on a put-back basket and she made the bonus free throw pushing the Lady Indians advantage to 23-11 with 40 seconds left in the first half.

Another 3-pointer by Maloni sliced Agawam's deficit to nine points at the break.

The duo of Brown and Phillips combined to score all 10 of the Lady Brownies points during the third quarter.

The visitors couldn't get any closer than five points, as LaValley and Welsh kept paced by scoring four points apiece in that quarter.

The Lady Brownies managed to stay within striking distance in the fourth quarter, but they weren't able to retake the lead.

NECBL to bring in video technology to league venues

NORTH ADAMS – The New England Collegiate Baseball League has agreed to a partnership with Synergy Sports to implement the company's innovative video technology into each of the league's ballparks, in addition to adding TrackMan technology to its venues. The two globally renowned products represent the league's grand vision to enhance the preparation and development for each player in every NECBL organization and to provide Major League Baseball (MLB) scouting departments with more access to player data than ever before.

As part of the agreement, each NECBL organization will install a six-camera Synergy Sports setup in their venues to record and log all game action, assisting coaches and student-athletes with game preparation and post-game review. The partnership also provides a teaching tool to allow coaches to work with student-athletes to develop their skills through detailed analysis of practices and games.

NECBL coaching staffs will benefit from the efficiency of the Synergy Sports system, with teams receiving fully tagged footage of games delivered directly into an online platform for detailed analysis. Players will be better equipped to scout and prepare for their opponents, while

also being able to analyze and breakdown their own highlights. All 30 MLB scouting departments across the league have already come to rely Synergy's elite scouting video services, and now will be able to view every pitch from every NECBL game directly into their draft rooms.

Synergy Sports has built its success on proprietary technology which links meaningful sports data and video clips to create visual statistics and analytics about players, teams and games. Patented "1-Click Video" links every stat to the supporting video, resulting in automatically generated edits that once took coaches hours to create. Infinite sorting and filtering of statistics and video clips in real time gives coaches endless opportunities to discover the answers to important questions as they formulate winning strategies.

TrackMan Baseball is used for player evaluation and development by all major league and minor league teams in the United States, some of the top NCAA programs and by a majority of teams in Japan and Korea. The industry-leading technology captures the most comprehensive and accurate ball tracking data during the game or at practice and is redefining the language of baseball.

RACING ■ from page 8

Speedway, where he competed in the SK Light Modifieds and their premier SK Modified division.

And that's just scratching the surface of his resume.

"It just grew from the Thompson Modified days and it got better and better," McDermott said of his relationship with the Pasteryak family. "They are just a great family to be around. Between the Pasteryak family and my dad, I've learned everything I know about racing from them. The Pasteryak's pay attention to every single detail. It's such a great atmosphere to be able to learn from them and now transition it into my own car. I've been able to take everything I've learned and just put it into what's best for me."

With experience with the Pasteryak family, and now some offseason time with Harvey preparing for the new season, McDermott feels 2021 might be his best ever behind the wheel. His driving resume speaks for itself, with multiple wins and championships, but he's lacking something he's trying hard to get: a win in a Tour-Type Modified. He hopes to end that drought with Tri Track this year.

"It was definitely a learning curve jumping from the SK Modified to the Tour-Type Modified, I think the Tour-Type Modified really suits my style a lot better than the SK does," McDermott said. "I'm not nearly as aggressive as everyone else to be dominant in the SK. Paying it out of your own pocket, it makes you definitely consider everything. As a family-owned team with my parents, in-laws, and a few close friends and good sponsors helping us out, and all the experience I have in a variety of different roles, it should be a good year."

As most others, his goal is to come home with the car in one piece, have a solid run, and continue to build a notebook in hopes of visiting Victory Lane with Tri Track. But he knows the level of talent the Tri Track field will offer in 2021 -- ranging from former series champions to Whelen Modified Tour champions, race winners, rising stars and more, will be tough to compete with.

FOOTBALL ■ from page 8

son while other schools in the red chose to participate in the basketball, hockey, and swimming season.

Holyoke finally went into the yellow two weeks ago, and green-lighted the Fall 2 season, allowing football, girls volleyball, unified basketball, and cheerleading to take place. The Knights are currently scheduled to play in the second week of the season, on March 26 against Minnechaug. The Knights are not currently scheduled for a Week 1 game.

The rest of the schedules are on miaa.net for most teams. The football season is set to conclude at the end of April, so teams can move into the abbreviated spring season, which will go from early May to the very end of June.

There will be no playoffs for the football season.

His immediate goal is going to be to qualify for the races, then worry about the rest once the green flag drops.

"I have a lot of experience coming from many different directions. I wouldn't say that I know everything -- no one does in racing," McDermott said. "There's always a learning curve for everyone with new stuff coming out, new technology... but driving-wise I feel like I'm almost there. A good year for me would be to make all of the races, first. There is so much competition, and just qualifying is going to be difficult. If we can get into the races, then get some top-fives, I feel like that would be good. If you can get to the top-five, you can compete for wins."

Tri Track will visit three of New England's historic race tracks -- Monadnock Speedway, Seekonk Speedway and Star Speedway during the season -- and McDermott does have limited experience with all of them, driving previously in Tri Track races, where he does have top-10 finishes.

"I've run all three tracks before and I like Star a lot, we always seem to be really competitive there," McDermott said. "We ran Seekonk at the Haunted Hundred in 2019 and we were competitive until the last lap, when we went through the infield in the middle of chaos in front of us. I like both of those tracks a lot. I still haven't gotten my hands around Monadnock yet. The one time we went there we were fast, but broke a trailing-arm bracket, so we don't really know how that day would have ended. My dad grew up at Seekonk -- he ran Street Stocks there and I grew up in the grandstands there. I'm looking forward to running there again."

Without his parents, in-laws, a few close friends and sponsors like Maybury Material Handling, Douglas Battery, Richard Green Insurance and McDermott Motorsports Services, McDermott wouldn't be in the position he is now. The support from his wife -- Lauren -- who raced previously herself, has been a major player in his career. He's hoping to balance his past experience with his current roles and help himself grow as a driver en route to victory lane in 2021.

"We're going to enjoy it," McDermott said. "I was with the Pasteryak's for all of the years and still ran my own team at the same time, so I think we will be good. I think you learn a lot about the cars and that helps you understand everything a lot better when you're in a variety of roles like I have been in. I come from an engineering background and I think if you understand everything, the more you do the better you will be at everything."

"Just being able to get the opportunity to do what I do now is because of all of the people that have supported me in my career. Everyone is always pushing me to be better. All of my experiences have been great and I look to continue on with it this year."

Registration for the 2021 Tri Track season is open, and teams can register at TriTrackModifieds.com/team-info. Teams have the option to either sign-up for the whole season or just one single race.

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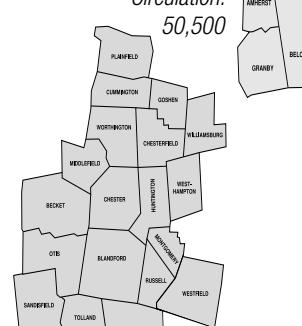
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Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21C0032CA

In the matter of:

Samantha Lee Lyman
aka Samantha Lee LoRicco

CITATION ON PETITION

TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change

Name of Adult has been filed by Samantha Lee Lyman aka Samantha Lee LoRicco of Agawam, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Samantha Lyman LoRicco

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/22/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which

you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 22, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P0395EA

Estate of:
Donna Marie Jasiewicz

Date of Death: 01/10/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed

by Rose Fisher of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Rose Fisher of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objec-

tions within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in

an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of admin-

istration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 04, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/11/2021

MORE NOTICES | page 12

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF GRANBY, CHIEF OF POLICE The Town of Granby seeks a community-oriented, qualified individual for the full-time position of Chief of Police. Appointed by the Selectboard and under the administrative oversight of the Town Administrator, the Chief of Police is the chief administrative officer of the Granby police department in a union/non-union working environment in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 97A serving as the final department authority in all matters of policy, operations and employee discipline as well as short and long-term planning, administration, staffing, rules and regulations within the Department and for the enforcement of all laws and bylaws within the town of Granby's legal jurisdiction as well as coordination with outside agencies/departments on law enforcement-related matters.

Minimum education required is a bachelor's degree, with a master's degree preferred, in criminal justice, public administration or related field and a minimum often years progressively responsible experience in the law enforcement field with at least five years' experience at a command or supervisory level, or equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the job. Salary to be negotiated but expected to be approximately \$100,000 +/- . Excellent benefits package including paid vacation time, sick time, personal time and enrollment in the Hampshire County Retirement System. Submit cover letter, resume and relevant certification(s) postmarked no later than April 20, 2021 to Chief of Police Search, C/O Selectboard Office, 10-B W. State St, Granby, MA 01033 or electronically, time stamped no later than 12:00 p.m. April 20, 2021 to cmartin@granby.ma.gov.

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FOOD DRIVE ■ from page 1

were impressed with the variety of services Gray House offers.

"We are functioning very differently this year, in normal years we assist local charities or organizations with whatever their needs are," Bonavita said. "Each NHS member had to complete forty hours of community service while also maintaining strict course enrollment and GPA standards."

Due to the unique year; most of the events the NHS members participate in were cancelled or held in a virtual manner, so they do not require 40 total hours this year. Instead, members are asked to complete one or two projects per month, as a way to make up for not running events and helping charities they usually would.

The NHS started advertising for their food drive on social media and the remote student members made posters to help spread the word, some of these posters were posted through the high school and announcements were made so students had many options to donate. The NHS enjoyed working with Gray House, Bonavita said that she and Person talked to Gray House about how they could do additionally during this school year to help. While the NHS didn't weigh the food donations they received, the Gray House Director of Food Pantry Services Benjamin Holt told her that the approximate grand total was 2,250 pounds of donations. Agawam High School staff members helped to drop off six car loads of food on Friday, Mar. 5.

With the NHS operating a bit different-

ly this year the members have managed to assist the DPW with labeling storm drains in town, created holiday cards for Heritage Hall and Holyoke Soldiers Home, made technology tutorial videos for district families, and are currently helping with an online mentoring program that connects high school students with elementary students in town.

"As we navigate between maintaining high standards for NHS membership with the Covid restrictions on group events, we are becoming more and more creative with our opportunities," Bonavita said. "I have been advising for the past four years and Andrea joined as co-advisor late last year. Having her onboard with new, fresh ideas has been incredibly helpful."

The NHS is continuing projects until the year ends, and may possibly work with Gray House again in the future. The members have done a good job on the food drive and Principal Thomas Schnepf said the NHS did a great job and that he thought it was worth a look. The advisors and members of the NHS are working hard despite the different terms of this academic year. The NHS has inducted 43 members of the class of 2021 and each senior member has helped the drive in some way, doing what they can during a time when they can't do as much as they used to. Though they didn't hold typical events they helped Holt and the Gray House, with Holt giving thanks to the club for their help and additional donations.



Students Ryan Butler and Ella Kinchak organize food drive donations.



Agawam High School senior Joseph Weyant inspects donations at the National Honor Society Food Drive.



Billy Balzano, Danny Harpin, and Sofia Blanchette work to organize food from the drive held at the high school.



ABOVE: From left; Sheila Ashton, Joanne White, Andrea Person, Mary Bonavita, Geoff Phillips, and Laurie McCaslin staff members helping with the food drive. RIGHT: Andrea Person and Mary Bonavita, co-advisors to the National Honor Society at Agawam High School. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Public Notices

■ from page 11

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P0394EA

Estate of:
Theodore P Pienkos
Also known as:

Theodore Pienkos, Jr.

Date of Death: 12/31/2020

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by Arthur J Lavoie of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Arthur J Lavoie** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration.

stration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 04, 2021

Rosemary A Saccoccani

Register of Probate

03/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P0392EA

Estate of:

Jeffery Allen Salomon

Date of Death: 08/31/2020

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by Jean A Ziomba of Weymouth, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Jean A Ziomba** of Weymouth, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2021**.

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obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2021**.

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UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 04, 2021

Rosemary A Saccoccani

Register of Probate

03/11/2021

